

REMARKS

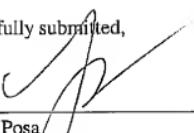
Claims 1, 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) over Muhlbach *et al.* ('878). Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation of wheels that operate in the same direction. This clearly distinguishes over Muhlbach that discloses "wheels 11 and 12 which rotate in opposite directions as shown by the arrows in FIG. 1." ('878 Patent, 2:46) With respect to claim 4 the Examiner's argument is unreasonable. Items 19, 20 of Muhlbach are bearing blocks—not "manually operated buttons."

Muhlbach is not even analogous art. The Examiner must determine what is "analogous prior art" for the purpose of analyzing the obviousness of the subject matter at issue." "In order to rely on a reference as a basis for rejection of an applicant's invention, the reference must either be in the field of applicant's endeavor or, if not, then be reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the inventor was concerned." *In re Oetiker*, 977 F.2d 1443, 1446, 24 USPQ2d 1443, 1445 (Fed. Cir. 1992). See also *In re Deminski*, 796 F.2d 436, 230 USPQ 313 (Fed. Cir. 1986); *In re Clay*, 966 F.2d 656, 659, 23 USPQ2d 1058, 1060-61 (Fed. Cir. 1992) ("A reference is reasonably pertinent if, even though it may be in a different field from that of the inventor's endeavor, it is one which, because of the matter with which it deals, logically would have commended itself to an inventor's attention in considering his problem."); and *Wang Laboratories Inc. v. Toshiba Corp.*, 993 F.2d 858, 26 USPQ2d 1767 (Fed. Cir. 1993). In this case, wound and skin closure instruments are unrelated to shoe lasting machines.

Based on the foregoing amendments and comments, Applicant believes this application is in condition for allowance. Questions regarding this application may be directed to the undersigned attorney at the telephone and/or facsimile numbers provided below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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